



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

**Virginia Agricultural  
Statistics Service**  
P.O. Box 1659  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

# News

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## **VIRGINIA CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN 6 PERCENT**

The inventory of Virginia cattle and calves totaled 1.6 million head on January 1, 2000, down 6 percent from the January 1, 1999 inventory of 1.7 million head.

Extremely dry weather during the latter half of 1999 caused pasture conditions to be greatly diminished across the Commonwealth. Many livestock producers aggressively reduced their herd size as forage, water, and feed supplies declined.

Virginia ranked twenty-first in the United States in total number of cattle and calves, down from nineteenth on January 1, 1999. Virginia lost two spots in the nation's ranking, falling behind New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

Beef cow inventory, at 661,000 head, was down 4 percent from last year's total of 688,000 head. Milk cow inventory, at 119,000 head, was down only 2 percent from the 1999 total of 122,000 head.

Total inventory of all cows that have calved was 780,000 head, down 4 percent from last year's total of 810,000 head.

Beef replacement heifers totaled 112,000 head on January 1, down 3 percent from the 1999 total of 115,000 head. The milk replacement heifer inventory was down 5 percent at 60,000 head. Last year's total was 63,000 head.

Virginia's inventory of steers 500 pounds and over totaled 175,000 head, down 8 percent from the 1999 total of 190,000 head. Inventory of bulls 500 pounds and over totaled 40,000 head, down 5 percent from the 1999 total of 42,000 head. Total inventory of heifers, steers and bulls less than 500 pounds was 370,000 head, down 10 percent the 1999 total of 410,000 head.

The 1999 calf crop totaled 720,000 head, down 3 percent from the 1998 crop of 740,000.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2000, totaled 98.0 million head, 1 percent below the 99.1 million on January 1, 1999 and 2 percent below the 99.7 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved in the U.S., at 42.7 million, were slightly below the 42.9 million on January 1, 1999 and 1 percent below the 43.1 million two years ago.

Beef cows totaled 33.5 million head in the United States, down 1 percent from both January 1, 1999 and two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.19 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 1999 but slightly below two years ago.

Beef replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, at 5.53 million head, were down slightly from the previous year and down 4 percent from two years ago. Milk replacement heifers totaled 3.95 million head, down 3 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

The 1999 calf crop was estimated at 38.71 million head, down slightly from 1998 at 38.81 million head, and down 1 percent from 1997.

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Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

**VIRGINIA AQUACULTURE CENSUS CATCHES NEARLY \$25 MILLION IN SALES**

The Nation’s first Census of Aquaculture revealed interesting facts about one of agriculture’s fastest growing sectors. The 1998 Census of Aquaculture, conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service, is a continuation of the Virginia Aquaculture Report started in 1993. The Census provides a wide variety of data relating to methods of production, sources of water, sales and sale outlets, cooperative agreements and contracts, sizes of operation based on sales, and aquaculture distributed for restoration or conservation purposes.

Virginia aquaculture producers grossed more than \$24.6 million in sales in 1998. This was up 8 percent from 1997. Sales from crustaceans and mollusks accounted for almost 75 percent of total sales. Virginia ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation with respect to total sales. There were 324 freshwater acres and 4,299 saltwater acres used for production during 1998. Virginia ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in total number of farms with 294.

This special census provided the first nationally detailed picture of the aquaculture industry and revealed that:

- < Mississippi topped the sales charts, capturing nearly 30 percent of the \$978 million dollars of domestic aquaculture produced in 1998.
- < Arkansas, Florida, Maine, and Alabama came in second through fifth, respectively, in sales.
- < Food fish (e.g., catfish, trout, salmon, tilapia, hybrid striped bass, etc.) accounted for about two-thirds of the aquaculture sales and just under half of the farms producing aquaculture.
- < The value of aquacultural products sold continues to grow, jumping more than 20 percent in the last year: sales totaled \$807 million in 1997, then rose to \$978 million in 1998.
- < Food fish growers showed average sales of \$387 thousand per farm in 1998.

The Census of Aquaculture contains information about food fish, baitfish, mollusks, crustaceans, ornamental fish, sport/game fish, algae and sea vegetables, and other fish and aquacultural products. To discover the wealth of aquaculture and other agricultural statistics available from NASS, including hundreds of commodity production and price reports, or to review a full catalog of NASS products and services, visit the NASS home page at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/). The 1998 Census of Aquaculture, 1997 Census of Agriculture reports, State and County Profiles, Highlights, and a slide show presenting *Quick Facts* are accessible by clicking “Census of Agriculture.” For other information, e-mail [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov) or call 1-800-727-9540.

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